

Minoan Civilization



A quick overview

Who and Where

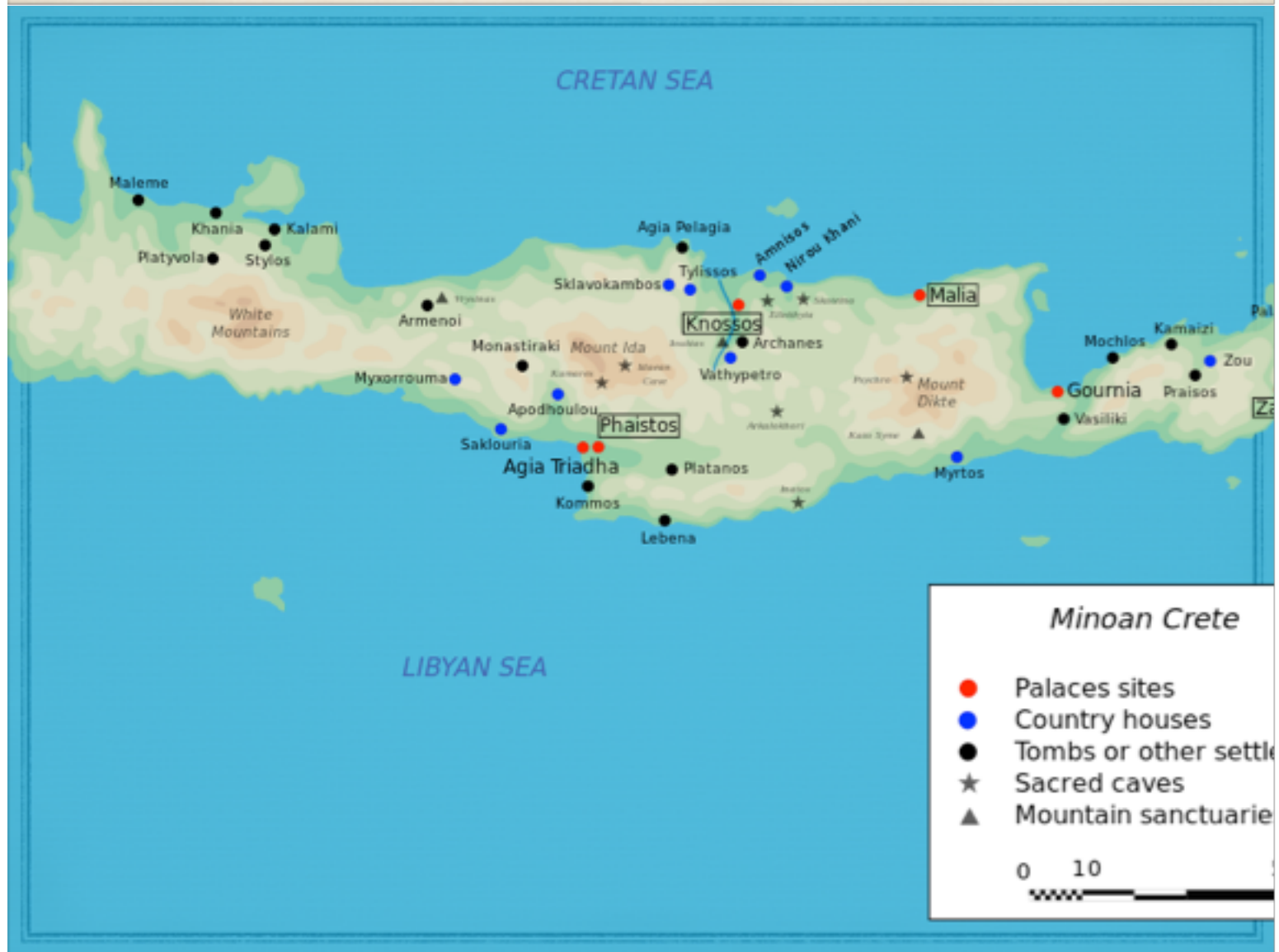


Who and Where

- ❖ The Minoans were a civilization that lived from around 2700-1450BCE.
- ❖ They inhabited the island of Crete, and had a complex economy and society with lots of archaeological remains leftover



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Major Features of Minoan Civilization: Bull Worship

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- ❖ Bull-leaping was some sort of sport or ritual, which involved young athletes leaping over the back of a bull
- ❖ Scholars debate what the purpose of the leaping is, but it is clear bulls were an important part of Minoan culture
- ❖ Bull worship is found in many ways all over the island of Crete and at many centers of Minoan civilization.



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Fresco of a bull leaping



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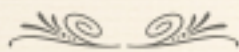


Bull horn





Bull horn drinking cup

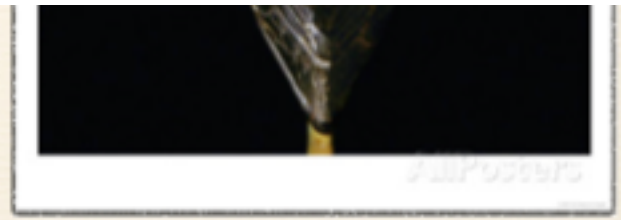


Possibly used for ritual purposes



Major Features of Minoan Civilization: Palace Complexes

- ❖ The Minoan civilization used massive palaces to run their government and their economy

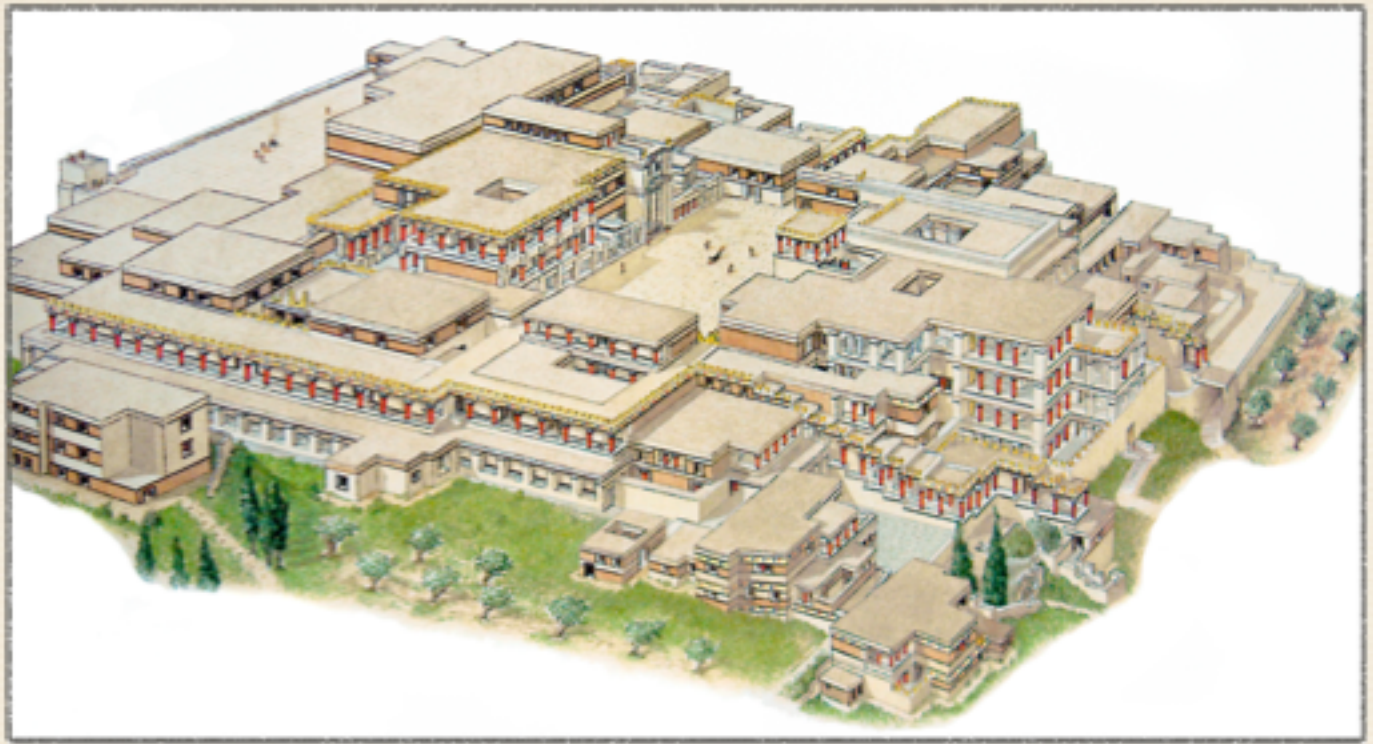


Major Features of Minoan Civilization: Palace Complexes

- ❖ The Minoan civilization used massive palaces to run their government and their economy
- ❖ These palaces are incredibly complex and well-designed for their era (1700-1400BCE)
- ❖ They had plumbing and running water, were up to 4 stories tall, and stored tons of grain, pottery, valuables, and other economic goods



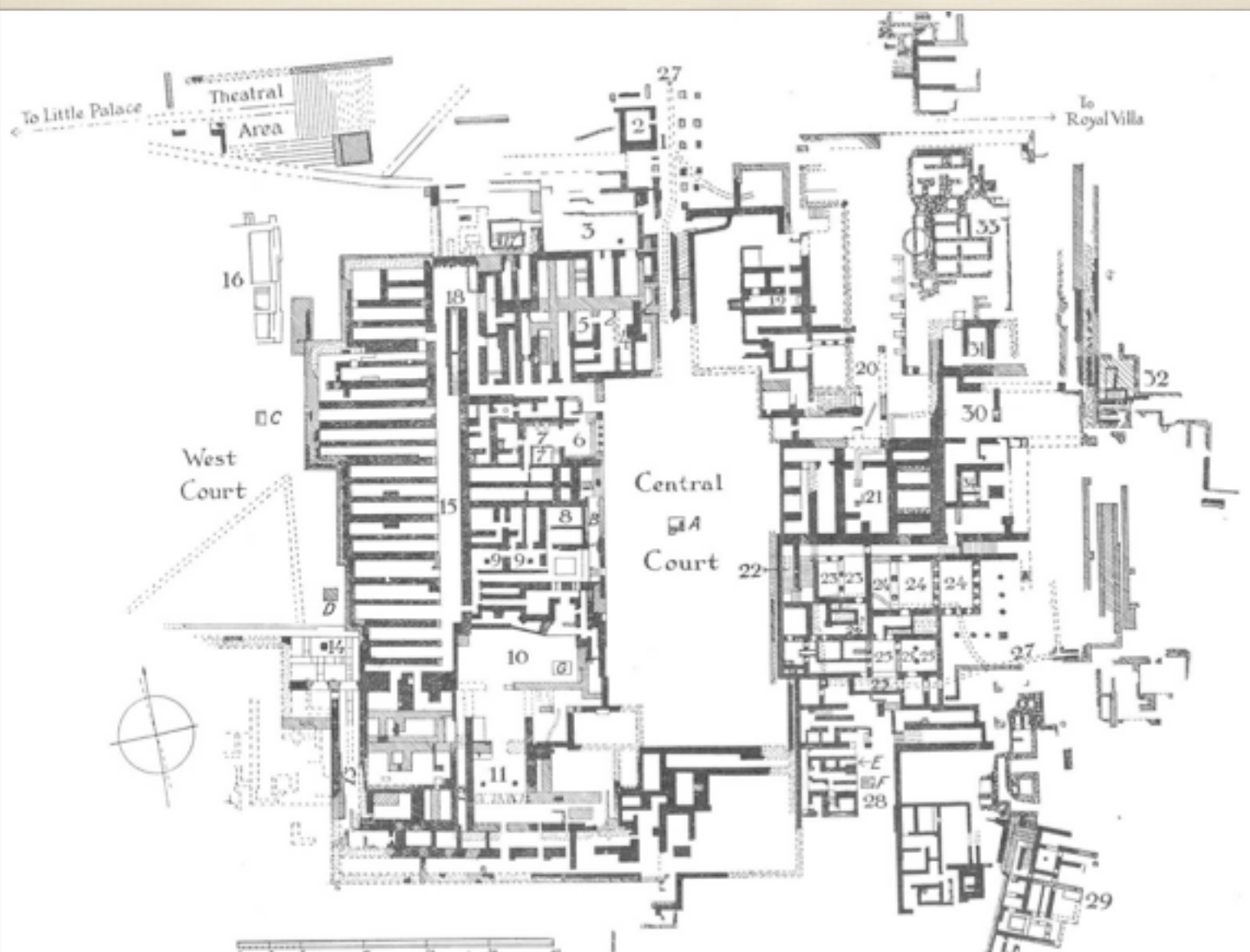
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The Palace of Knossos




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Minoan and Mycenaean Trade

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- ❖ Minoan pottery and other goods have been found all over the Mediterranean, but particularly in Greece.
- ❖ Minoan styles of pottery and culture influenced ancient Greece during 1700-1450BCE
- ❖ It is likely that Mycenae and the Minoan Civilization were connected through trade and commerce
- ❖ Around 1420BCE, the Mycenaean Greeks invaded and took over the island of Crete and the whole civilization
- ❖ Around 1200BCE, the island economy collapsed, and the whole civilization disappeared.